

Appl. No. 10/601,596
Amendment dated: August 11, 2005
Reply to OA of: July 13, 2005

REMARKS

This is in response to the Official Action of July 13, 2005, in connection with the above identified application.

The Official Action is an election requirement in which it is urged that there are five separate and distinct species claimed in this application. It is further indicated that no claims are found to be generic. Applicants elect the species of Figs. 4-5, with traverse with respect to the species of Figures 1-3. Claims 1-7 and new claim 13 are readable on the elected species. New claim 13 specifies that the clutching mechanism is a micro/nano clutching mechanism as fully supported by the specification as originally filed.

While Applicants do not agree to the election requirement, as no reasons are provided in the outstanding Official Action as why the species as grouped are patentably distinct, the species of Figures 6-8, 9 and 10-12 have not been elected with traverse. Applicants have canceled claims 8-12 as directed to the non-elected species. However, Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications on the non-elected species at a later time.

Applicants most respectfully submit that subject matter of the species of Figures 1-3 are not patentably distinct from that of figures 4-5. No reasons as to why these inventions are alleged to be patentably distinct are provided in the Official Action. Moreover, Applicants most respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would appreciate that the differences in these embodiments are only in the quantity and the shape of the pins they have. The embodiment of Figs. 1-3 has two pins having a conical shape, and the embodiment of Figs. 4-5 has three pins having a cylindrical shaped with a sloping top. Each of these embodiments of Figs 1-3 and Figures 4-5 has at least one elastic layer, at least two protrusions, a supporting mechanism, and a driving mechanism, and performs the same function with the substantially the same

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structure. These are clearly not patentably distinct and the requirement in this regard should be withdrawn.

In view of the election of the species of Figs. 4-5, with traverse, an early and favorable action on the merits of all of the claims now remaining in the application are now believed to be in order and is most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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